

SENATE RESOLUTION 147

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor Millersville Police Chief Ronnie Williams
for his singular act of bravery in the line of duty.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure the public safety and welfare, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in service of the public safety; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition through service in law enforcement, dedicating their time and efforts to aiding those in emergency situations and apprehending those who have broken the law; and

WHEREAS, Chief Ronnie Williams of the Millersville Police Department is one such noteworthy public servant who courageously responded to aid a wounded officer after she had been shot in the neck; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2009, the Millersville Police Department received a report that a male resident in a home in the community was suicidal; several officers were dispatched to the home and upon arrival, they heard shots fired and immediately took cover; and

WHEREAS, after hearing several more shots, the police called in the Sumner County SWAT unit and Officer Kasey Fitts was instructed to take a position in a neighboring yard to keep an eye on the front of the house; and

WHEREAS, after the arrival of the Sumner County SWAT unit, Officer Fitts heard a shotgun blast and felt a hot burning sensation in her neck; she was able to grab her shotgun and crawl to cover beside the neighboring house; and

WHEREAS, in her place of cover, Officer Fitts advised dispatch that shots had been fired and that she had been injured by the shotgun blast; and

WHEREAS, Chief Ronnie Williams, realizing that one of his officers was down, immediately and heroically responded to assist Officer Fitts without wearing his bullet proof vest, putting his own life in harm's way while escorting her to safety; and

WHEREAS, Officer Fitts was transported by Sumner County EMS to Skyline Medical Center and eventually moved to the Vanderbilt Hospital Trauma Center for treatment of her wound; and

WHEREAS, after Officer Fitts was shot, more police units from across the region were called to the scene, and eventually the suspect surrendered to the police, several hours after the standoff began; and

WHEREAS, the medical staff at Vanderbilt demonstrated the utmost professionalism while treating Officer Fitts's severe wound, and after recovery she was released from the hospital with a slug still lodged in her throat; and

WHEREAS, by putting his concern for Officer Fitts's safety before his own well-being, Millersville Police Chief Ronnie Williams saved Officer Fitts's life with the heroic actions he demonstrated that fateful night; and

WHEREAS, never knowing when an ordinary call could become deadly, Millersville Police Chief Ronnie Williams and the thousands of heroic law enforcement officers throughout Tennessee risk their lives daily protecting the citizens of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Chief Ronnie Williams of the Millersville Police Department has performed his duties as a police officer with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding, and he deserves proper recognition for his heroism as a public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Police Chief Ronnie Williams of the Millersville Police Department for his meritorious service, commend his heroism in the line of duty, and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.